



The COURT COMPASS

NEWSLETTER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS JUDICIAL BRANCH

Superior Court Judge Robert A. Mulligan Named Next Chief Justice for Administration and Management

On behalf of the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall on June 10 announced the appointment of Superior Court Judge Robert A. Mulligan as the next Chief Justice for Administration and Management of the Trial Court.

Judge Mulligan's term as Chief Justice will begin October 1.

"I embark on this endeavor with profound respect and appreciation for all those who work in the seven Departments of the Trial Court and in the Administrative Office," he said after Chief Justice Marshall announced his appointment in the Supreme Judicial Court's Thorndike Library. "I appreciate the many excellent employees of the Trial Court and I will always remember that I came

Judge Mulligan

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Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall, center, listens to comments about the Report by the Visiting Committee on Management in the Courts during a meeting on May 28 with representatives of the Massachusetts business community. From left are Supreme Judicial Court Executive Director Ronald Corbett, Jr.; Supreme Judicial Court Coordinator of Program and Policy Development LaDonna Hatton; Michael Widmer, President of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation; John Lynch, member of the Board of Directors of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts; and Richard Lord, A.I.M. President and Chief Executive Officer.

Justices Hear Comments on Visiting Committee Report

In the past two months the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court have met throughout the state with judges, clerks, registers, chief probation officers, legislators, Executive Branch officials, bar association leaders, prosecutors, defense attorneys, union officials, and business leaders, among others, to discuss the recommendations reported in March by the Visiting Committee on Management in the Courts.

The Report to the Supreme Judicial Court by the Visiting Committee, chaired by J. Donald Monan, S.J., Chancellor of Boston College, recommends a series of actions for improving management of the courts, including initiatives for committing to new leadership norms and structures; creating a culture of high performance and accountability; and establishing discipline in resource allocation and use.

"The Visiting Committee has provided us with a Report that is both a comprehensive analysis of the current management structure, and a thoughtful blueprint for achieving managerial excellence in the future," Supreme Judicial Court

Visiting Committee

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Judge Mulligan

from the trenches. My role and the role of the Administrative Office of the Trial Court is to help and support those who work on the front lines as they serve the public and all who come to our courthouses seeking justice."

He noted that the Visiting Committee on Management in the Courts, in its Report submitted to the Supreme Judicial Court last March, suggested many changes for improving the efficiency of the court system. He emphasized, however, that the Visiting Committee "found that court problems today are not due to a lack of dedicated, talented employees. Nor did the Visiting Committee find problems with the quality of justice in the courts."

He lauded the Visiting Committee's Report as both a call to action and a blueprint for improving the delivery of justice.

"I know that there is a reservoir of talent in our system, people who are eager to begin this work. In order to succeed, to meet the challenge of our noble calling, we must work together and learn from each other."

Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall said, "The Justices are enormously pleased that Chief Justice Mulligan has agreed to assume the challenging position during this pivotal era of management reform in the judicial system of the Commonwealth."

"Judge Mulligan, a proven leader who commands the great respect of all with whom he has worked over the past two decades, is committed to this mission. We look forward to working



Superior Court Judge Robert A. Mulligan addresses the many judges, court employees, family members, friends, and other well wishers assembled in the Supreme Judicial Court's Thorndike Library on June 10. Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall, standing at right, on behalf of the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, announced the appointment of Judge Mulligan as the next Chief Justice for Administration and Management of the Trial Court. To the right of Chief Justice Marshall are Judge Mulligan's wife, Tina, and son, Mark.

with him as he sets forth — in cooperation with all who work within our courts and support our shared mission — to make that vision a reality," she said.

"We know that Robert Mulligan has the energy, the talent, the vision, and, yes, even the doggedness, to undertake the management changes to which the Justices are committed. He is committed, as are the Justices, to creating a court system that performs to high standards of civility, timeliness,

and cost-efficiency, while continuing to deliver the substantive justice that has made our judiciary a national model for so long."

Judge Mulligan is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and Suffolk University Law School, and was an assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts and an Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth before his appointment to the Boston Municipal Court bench in 1980. He became a Justice of the Superior Court in 1982, serving as Chief Justice of the Court from 1994-1999.

Chief Justice Marshall also emphasized the Supreme Judicial Court Justices' appreciation for the numerous contributions of Chief Justice Barbara A. Dortch-Okara during her term as Chief Justice for Administration and Management. Chief Justice Dortch-Okara will return to the Superior Court bench in October when she completes her five-year term.

"Chief Justice Dortch-Okara has worked unceasingly to lead the Trial Court during difficult years of diminished resources and

enormous fiscal challenges," Chief Justice Marshall said. "She has worked diligently with judges, court personnel, legislators, and community representatives in an effort to address numerous administrative issues and to provide better access to justice for all who come to our courts. Chief Justice Dortch-Okara, a superb judge, deserves our utmost gratitude and respect for her distinguished service in the administration of justice." ■

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Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall said. "Since the release of the Report, the Justices have solicited reactions from many people inside and outside the court system. We have received many comments that will help to shape our course as we turn the vision of the Report into reality."

Supreme Judicial Court Executive Director Ronald P. Corbett, Jr., attended each of the seventeen meetings conducted by the Justices, held at courthouses throughout the Commonwealth in May and June. "The meetings have been very open and candid," he said. "Their purpose is to give the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court the opportunity to listen and to hear the reactions, both positive and critical, of everyone with a strong interest in the courts. The people who have attended have responded by providing many useful, thoughtful ideas."

The full text of the Visiting Committee's Report may be read on the Massachusetts Court System website, at www.state.ma.us/courts. Photographs of the meetings are also on the website. ■



The Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court hosted a breakfast at the Court to thank the members of the Visiting Committee on May 7. Seated, from left, are Committee members Ralph C. Martin II, partner at Bingham McCutchen LLP and former Suffolk County District Attorney; Wesley W. Marple, Jr., Professor of Finance at Northeastern University; Committee Chair J. Donald Monan, S.J., Chancellor of Boston College; Dorothy A. Terrell, formerly President of the Platforms and Services Group and Senior Vice President of Worldwide Sales at NMS Communications; and Hon. A. David Mazzone, Senior Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. Standing, from left, are Justice Robert J. Cordy, Chief Justice Marshall, Justice Judith A. Cowin, Justice John M. Greaney, Justice Martha B. Sosman, Justice Roderick L. Ireland, and Justice Francis X. Spina. Not pictured are Visiting Committee Vice-Chairs Patricia McGovern, Special Counsel and Senior Vice President of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and William C. Van Faasen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts; and member Charles D. Baker, President and Chief Executive Officer of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care.



Above, Hampshire Superior Court Clerk Harry Jekanowski, Jr., makes a point during the regional meeting for court managers in Berkshire, Hampshire, and Franklin counties on May 14, as Franklin/Hampshire Juvenile Court Clerk-Magistrate Christopher Reavey, center, and Franklin/Hampshire Juvenile Court Chief Probation Officer Edward A. Driscoll listen.

At left, Supreme Judicial Court Justice Martha B. Sosman, right, and Executive Director Ronald P. Corbett, Jr., host a meeting in the Supreme Judicial Court Consultation Room on June 5.

Assistant Register Named Employee of the Year

In recognition of his outstanding dedication to serving the public, Worcester Probate and Family Court Assistant Register Michael F. Herman has been named the 2003 Trial Court Employee of the Year.

Mr. Herman, who first began working at the Worcester Probate and Family Court in 1979 as a Head Administrative Assistant, was commended for his willingness to work long hours to enable the Court to keep pace with its heavy workload. In presenting the Employee of the Year Award to him during a ceremony on May 22 at Union Station in Worcester, Chief Justice for Administration and Management Barbara A. Dortch-Okara noted that he remains at the Court for hours after it closes several days a week to ensure that essential court duties are completed in a timely manner.

"In addition, he has taken on added day-to-day supervisory responsibilities in light of the unexpected absence of an office manager, which

often require him to perform much of his administrative paperwork at home or to report to the courthouse on weekends," she said.

To keep up with the paperwork, members of the staff at Worcester Probate and Family Court voluntarily remain in the office until about 7:00 p.m. several nights a week. On most of those evenings, Mr. Herman stays late to work with them.

"I love the people I work with," Mr. Herman said. He feels honored to be recognized as the Employee of the Year, exclaiming that the award "really is a tribute to everyone here at the Worcester Probate and Family Court."

He added that he also enjoys serving the public. "I like the satisfaction of helping people out, and maybe making a difference in their lives."

In addition to presenting the Employee of the Year Award, Chief Justice Dortch-Okara, Trial Court Department Chief Justices, and Administrative Office of the Trial Court Department Directors also awarded



Chief Justice for Administration and Management Barbara A. Dortch-Okara, right, introduced Assistant Register Michael F. Herman as the 2003 Trial Court Employee of the Year during a ceremony at Worcester's Union Station on May 22.

Employee Excellence Awards to seventeen other outstanding staff members during the May 22 ceremony.

2003 Trial Court Employee Excellence Award Winners

Thomas W. Alfonse

Assistant Clerk-Magistrate
New Bedford District Court

Jessica Bonsignore

Case Specialist IV
Boston Municipal Court

Vera Brown

Operations Supervisor II
Essex Probate and Family
Court

Kevin Buckley

Court Operations Analyst
and Webmaster
AOTC IT Department

Rose Marie Carelli

Court Officer
Worcester Superior Court

Carmen Diaz

Telephone Scheduler II
Office of Jury Commissioner

Colin Doherty

Associate Court Officer
Lynn District Court

Nancy Farrell

Head Administrative Assistant
Dedham District Court

Gaye Gentes, Manager, and Staff

AOTC Office of Court
Interpreter Services

Margaret Hayden

Electronic Resources
Librarian
Trial Court Law Libraries

Sheila Larkin

Head Administrative
Assistant
Fitchburg District Court

Matthew Lefebvre

Case Coordinator
Hampden Superior Court

Grisel Lind

Judicial Secretary
Essex Juvenile Court

Nancy Macauley

Probation Officer
Berkshire Juvenile Court

Barbara McDonough

Administrative Coordinator
Office of the Commissioner
of Probation

Joseph Piknick

Associate Court Officer
Lynn District Court

Lawrence Sullivan

Court Officer
Norfolk Superior Court

COURTS IN THE COMMUNITY



Dozens of Courts across Massachusetts Host Law Day Celebrations

More than thirty courts throughout Massachusetts hosted events in celebration of Law Day on May 1. Often held in partnership with local bar associations, activities included student poster, essay, and speech contests; mock trials; panel discussions by judges, court staff, attorneys, and law enforcement personnel; speeches by members of the judiciary and other state and community leaders; the presenting of awards to local citizens; and tours of courthouses.

Many of the activities held during Law Day, established by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1958, focused on educating students of all ages about the importance of the rule of law and the American system of justice.

For example, an event for approximately sixty students from the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, organized by Appeals Court Justice Fernande R.V. Duffly and sponsored by the National Association of Women Judges' "Color of Justice" Program,



Judges and other members of the legal community who participated in the Law Day event for Cambridge Rindge and Latin students included, from left, Superior Court Judge Margot Botsford; Boston Attorney Sherry Y. Mulloy; Probate and Family Court Judge Prudence M. McGregor; Attorney David Grayer; Boston Municipal Court Judge Sally A. Kelly; Middlesex Probate and Family Court Judge Judith Nelson Dilday; Boston Municipal Court Judge John T. Lu; Appeals Court Justice Fernande R.V. Duffly; Appeals Court Justice Mark V. Green; Appeals Court Justice Cynthia J. Cohen; Attorney James Dilday; Boston Municipal Court Judge Annette Forde; Appeals Court Justice Barbara A. Lenk; Attorney Jonathan Tynes; Boston Municipal Court Judge Patricia Bernstein; Appeals Court Law Clerk Dino Trubiano; Superior Court Judge Nonnie S. Burnes; and Appeals Court Law Clerk Daniel Saval.

consisted of the presentation of mock hearings in cases about a restraining order and the searching of a student's locker. Following the hearings, stu-

dents separated into small groups and discussed the cases with seventeen judges from the Massachusetts Appeals Court and the Trial Court.



Black Judges Conference Presents Law Student Book Awards

The Massachusetts Black Judges Conference recognized the academic excellence of nine second-year law school students during its Sixteenth Annual Book Awards Ceremony on May 9 at the Southern New England School of Law. Standing in the middle of the second row in the photo, Woburn District Court First Justice Marie O. Jackson, the Conference President, is shown with the award recipients. In front, from left, are Corrine A. Irish of Harvard Law School, Roxanne E. Formey of Northeastern University School of Law, Dashala Dixon of Boston College Law School, Nikki Brandon Harris of New England School of Law, and Linda Burks-Adams of Suffolk University Law School. In the second row, from left, are Alexander Howard III of Boston University School of Law, Ishmael Thoronka of the Massachusetts School of Law, Montez Haywood of Southern New England School of Law, and Edward Wilson, Jr., of Western New England School of Law.

COMPASS POINTS



From left are Women's Bar Foundation President Antoinette E.M. Leoney, Attorney Michael G. Paris, Women's Bar Foundation Executive Director Elisabeth J. Medvedow, Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall; Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey, Attorney Irene Schall, Attorney Roger Stanford, and Justice Francis X. Spina.

SJC Committee Presents Adams *Pro Bono Publico* Awards to Attorneys for their Outstanding Volunteer Services

In the second annual ceremony recognizing attorneys' outstanding commitments to helping poor and disadvantaged litigants, the Supreme Judicial Court Standing Committee on *Pro Bono* Legal Services presented Adams *Pro Bono Publico* Awards to Newton Attorney Michael G. Paris, the New Bedford law firm of Stanford & Schall, and the Women's Bar Foundation on June 4.

Supreme Judicial Court Justice Francis X. Spina presented the awards to the recipients during the ceremony, during which Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall, Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey, and Committee Chair Mary K. Ryan, Esq., also lauded their service.

Mr. Paris is a partner in the Boston law firm of Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP, and Stanford & Schall is a partnership of Attorneys Irene Schall and Roger Stanford. Women's Bar Foundation President Antoinette E.M. Leoney and Executive Director Elisabeth J. Medvedow accepted the Award on behalf of the Foundation.

Established in 1999, the Supreme Judicial Court Standing Committee on *Pro Bono* Legal Services works to promote volunteer legal work in Massachusetts to help people of limited means in need of legal representation, in accordance with Supreme Judicial Court Rule 6.1. The awards are named in honor of John Adams and John Quincy Adams.

Cambridge Court Officers Use Defibrillator to Restore Stricken Grand Juror's Pulse

The Trial Court Security Department's effort to equip all courthouses in the Commonwealth with defibrillators likely saved the life of a grand juror who suffered a heart attack at Middlesex Superior Court in Cambridge on the morning of May 6.

After learning of the emergency, Associate Court Officer Supervisor Frederic H. Balk and Associate Court Officer John J. Serra rushed to the grand jury room, finding two other jurors with emergency medical training performing cardio-pulmonary resuscitation on the stricken 58-year-old man. Associate Court Officer Serra, who teaches CPR for the Security Department, quickly ordered the courthouse defibrillator to be brought to the jury pool room.

Assisted by Chief Court Officer Edward Dever and Court Officer Joseph Loughman, Associate Court Officer Serra used the defibrillator to revive the man's pulse. Soon after, emergency medical crews arrived and further stabilized the man's condition before transporting him to a hospital.

"The grand juror may not have survived without the quick, effective response by Associate Court Officer Serra and the entire security staff under Chief Court Officer Dever," Security Department Director Francis P. Keough said. "They probably saved a life because they had the proper equipment and knew how to use it under emergency conditions. The results in this case prove the value of instituting a state-wide program in 2001 to train all court officers and associate court officers in administering first aid and CPR, including the use of defibrillators, and are a credit to all the members of the Security Department."

COMPASS POINTS



Franklin County Reinventing Justice Project Celebrates Ten Years of Innovation

The Franklin County Reinventing Justice Project, the groundbreaking program that has become a national model for strengthening ties between local courts and their surrounding communities, in May celebrated ten years of making justice more accessible to the citizens of Franklin County.

Inspired by "Reinventing Justice: 2002," the 1992 Report of the Chief

Justice's Commission on the Future of the Courts, Hon. Thomas T. Merrigan (Ret.), the former First Justice of Orange District Court, and Greenfield Attorney Diane H. Esser in 1993 began planning how to make the Report's vision of court and community collaboration a reality. Judge Merrigan and Ms. Esser became co-chairs of the Franklin County Futures Lab Task Force, which in 1994 conducted a series

of town meetings to learn from members of the public how they might be better served by the courts.

The Futures Lab proved to be the catalyst of a series of wide-ranging service innovations. Among the many programs conducted under what became known as the Reinventing Justice Project, the Substance Abuse

Reinventing Justice

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Supreme Judicial Court Justice Robert J. Cordy, left, moderates a panel discussion among former Supreme Judicial Court law clerks who have become judges. Seated, from left, are Probate and Family Court Judge Lawrence T. Perera (Ret.), Superior Court Judge Margot Botsford, U.S. District Court Judge Patti B. Saris, and U.S. District Court Chief Judge William G. Young.

Current and Former Justices and Law Clerks Form Society in Support of Supreme Judicial Court

Current and former Justices and law clerks of the Supreme Judicial Court gathered at the Social Law Library on June 9 for the Second Annual Meeting of the Law Clerks' Society of the Supreme Judicial Court.

The Society, organized as a chapter of the SJC Historical Society, has been formed to honor, sustain, and nurture the Court's legacy and living history. It also will engage in educational efforts to foster support for the rule of law

and an understanding of the essential role of an independent judiciary.

Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Horace Gray (1828-1902), who in 1864 became the youngest Justice in SJC history and in 1873 became Chief Justice, is credited with hiring the first law clerk in U.S. history in 1875. Justice Gray then introduced the use of law clerks to the federal court system when he became a Justice of the Supreme Court in 1882.

Judicial Institute Holds Training Sessions on Managing Stress

More than fifty court employees from five counties took part in a Judicial Institute training program that provided advice on how to reduce stress.

"Managing Stress in the Court Environment," an afternoon class offered in Salem and Ayer, included expert advice on understanding stress and techniques for reducing it, as well as on substance abuse issues.

"The course was very well received," said Jennifer Terminesi, Program Manager for the Judicial Institute, the training and professional development department within the Administrative Office of the Trial Court. "We received many comments by participants who said it should be mandatory training for all employees."

The Judicial Institute's Support Staff Committee helped develop the idea for the sessions. In addition to Ms. Terminesi, the Committee consists of Hampden Probate and Family Court Office Manager Mary Keeler, Suffolk Juvenile Court Office Manager Mark Passacantilli, and Administrative Coordinator Sonya E. Smiddy of the Probate and Family Court Administrative Office.



Judicial Youth Corps Begins 13th Year

Juvenile Court Chief Justice Martha P. Grace, left, addresses the students of the Supreme Judicial Court Judicial Youth Corps, below, during an educational session on the Juvenile Court. In addition to participating in weekly educational sessions about the Massachusetts court system, Judicial Youth Corps students also serve as interns in courts throughout Suffolk County in July and August.



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Reinventing Justice

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Intervention Program utilizes the power of the Orange and Greenfield District courts to help substance abusers overcome their addictions. A Restorative Probation Program brings defendants and victims together to determine appropriate ways in which the defendant may repay the victim. A Supervised Visitation Center provides a therapeutic setting in which children and their non-custodial parents may visit. The Project has also sponsored dozens of conferences, seminars, and workshops on topics concerning the justice system.

Supreme Judicial Court Justice John M. Greaney, the guest speaker at the Reinventing Justice Tenth Anniversary Celebration on May 2, commended the judges, court staff, agency personnel, and community members

who have made the Project a resounding success. "You have taken the concept of justice and moved it to a new level, making it much more meaningful for our citizens," he said. "You have demystified and explained the mission of the courts, you have enlisted community involvement, and, importantly, you have promoted public trust and confidence."

During the celebration, the Reinventing Justice Project also presented its Tenth Anniversary Community Partnership Award to Greenfield Community College for providing years of support for many Reinventing Justice Programs. Judge Merrigan, Ms. Esser, Massachusetts Senator Stanley Rosenberg, and Massachusetts Representative Christopher Donelan also were presented Community Partnership Awards. ■

The Court Compass

The Court Compass is a quarterly publication written and produced by the Public Information Office of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Please send questions, comments, ideas, or letters to Joan Kenney, Public Information Officer, or to Bruce Brock, Publications Specialist.

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